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Abstract of the Disclosure**CD40 BINDING COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS OF USING SAME**

This invention provides a novel purified mammalian protein having the ability to bind the cytoplasmic region or domain of a CD40 receptor and the nucleic acid molecules coding for this protein. Also provided by this invention are antibodies which specifically bind CD40bp. Methods of using the proteins, nucleic acids and antibodies described above are further provided herein.